vulnerable sections of the population usually live, etc.

Fire in Toofan Express

3636. CHOWDHARY HARI SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Toofan Express was set on fire near Karauta (Bihar) on the 10th August, 1990 by anti-reservationists who were protesting against the granting of additional 27 per cent reservation of jobs for backward castes by Government;

(b) if so, what is the loss sustained by the Railways as a result thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir. One second class coach of Udayan Abha Express (old Toofan Express) was set on fire.

(b) As a result of this fire, the Railway suffered a loss of approximately Rupees 2 Lakhs.

(c) The State Government was requested to make arrangements for the protection of passengers, Railway property and smooth movement of Rail Traffic. The State Government have strengthened the security arrangements by deploying more GRP/Civil Police and RPF under the charge of Magistrates and Police Officers. Mail/Express trains passing through affected areas are being escorted by Police/RPF during the day time also.

Connecting of Kolhapur to Pune Section to the Central Railway Zone

3637. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL :

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI :

DR. BAPU KALDATE :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the persistent demand from Western Maharashtra to connect the section between Kolhapur and Pune to the Central Railway Zone from the South Central Railway Zone; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The jurisdiction of Railway Zones and Divisions is decided with reference to administrative and operational requirements consistent with the needs of efficiency. On these considerations, it is not desirable to disturb the existing arrangement.

3638. [*Transferred to the 5th September*, 1990].

Engagement of employees on contract, part time and casual basis by the UNI

3639. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the UNI news agency, the recipient of Government grants and loans, has been engaging employees on contract, part-time and casual basis for several years in full-time and permanent cadre posts of typists, librarians and clerks;

(b) if so, the number of such employees, category-wise, working in the UNI, on contract, part-time and casual basis for more than one year as on March 31, 1990; and

(c) the steps taken or contemplated by Government to end this unfair labour practice and for regularisation of services of such employees in the UNI with prescribed wages under the Bachawat Wage Board Award?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

E.M.U. Trains on Ahmedabad-Baroda-Surat Sector

3640. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that suburban traffic on Ahmedabad-Baroda-Surat sector has increased during the past several years;